The following topics are provided for use/distribution within your state. This suggested list is provided as a service. Feel free to add, delete, or alter items to suit your purposes – especially in light of day-to-day events. Please keep in mind that other states may closely regulate the distribution of these topics. Please refrain from any distribution of the topics outside your state or by means which may be accessed outside your state, including the Internet, during the month of October.

**NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS**

# October 2012

***Domestic***

*Easier Topics*

1. Is academic dishonesty becoming a significant problem at America’s colleges and universities?
2. Which political party has the best plan to address the federal government’s looming budget crisis?
3. Is Joe Biden an asset or a liability to President Obama?
4. Is President Obama a different President than he was in 2009?
5. Was Paul Ryan a strong pick for Mitt Romney’s running mate?
6. Should Mitt Romney provide more of his previous tax returns to the press?
7. Will money be a definitive factor in deciding the outcome of the presidential election?
8. Are Romney’s criticisms of the Obama foreign policy record fair?
9. Will the Republican Party retake control of the Senate?
10. Are the States ready to implement the Affordable Care Act?
11. Can the Democratic Party improve its appeal among male voters?
12. Will health care reform help or hurt President Obama in his bid for reelection?
13. Are social or economic issues more important to American voters in 2012?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. 11 years after September 11, 2001, has the United States dropped its guard when protecting our foreign embassies?
2. Have controversial statements by Missouri Senate candidate, Todd Akin, undermined the credibility of the Republican Party with female voters?
3. Did Hurricane Isaac vindicate the federal government’s efforts to protect New Orleans from flooding?
4. Who do voters blame most for the sluggish economy?
5. How will this summer’s extensive drought impact the U.S. economy?
6. Are robotic rovers the future of America’s space program?
7. Is the Federal Reserve Board failing America’s economy?
8. Should the United States adopt “smart grid” technology for its electrical system?
9. Should government recognize the legality of polygamous unions?
10. Will increased domestic energy production decrease America’s concern with Middle Eastern affairs?
11. What can be done to stem the growing rates of debt among young Americans?
12. What can the Republican Party do to increase its appeal among minority voters?

## **International**

*Easier Topics*

1. Can Israel and the United States mend their increasingly strained relations?
2. Is Yemen succeeding in its fight against Al-Qaeda?
3. Is peace between Israel and Egypt at risk?
4. Is it time for the United States to intervene in Syria?
5. What is the cause of strained relations between South Korea and Japan?
6. Is Israel too eager to launch an attack against Iran’s nuclear program?
7. Will the Colombian government succeed in negotiating peace with the FARC?
8. Do the Chinese people have reason to believe government corruption is decreasing?
9. Should EU nations bail-out Spain?
10. Is Somalia on its way to having a stable government?
11. What can be done to heal the divisions in ASEAN?
12. Can Turkey decrease the conflict with its Kurdish population?
13. Can Nigeria succeed in reducing militant activity there?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. Will China and Japan’s dispute over islands in the South China Sea boil over into violence?
2. Are American politicians wrong to support Jerusalem as the capital of Israel?
3. Can Mongolia capitalize on its recent successes to become another Asian economic success story?
4. Can growing economic prosperity lessen poverty in India?
5. Will Serbia’s return to Milosevic-era political leaders endanger its desired entry into the EU?
6. Will the separatist Parti Quebecois return to power in Quebec?
7. Can Chinese AIDS activists succeed in their efforts to put pressure on their government?
8. Should the EU create a banking union?
9. Will the people of Kyrgyzstan succeed in forming a stable government?
10. What can be done to reduce violence by Afghan police against their NATO trainers?
11. What can Francois Hollande do to boost his popularity with the French people?
12. Can Rio match London in its hosting of the Olympics?